

sure that we didn't repeat the mistake of allowing groups to develop destructive capability and hope that, at some point in time, they weren't going to use it. They develop that destructive capability for a reason.

Now, we've made it very clear to you how we then proceed and how we deal with this—all the options are open. And I think after the 11th of September, this President showed that he proceeds in a calm and a measured and a sensible but in a firm way. Now, that is precisely what we need in this situation too.

And as I say to you, never forget he knows perfectly well what the international community has demanded of him over these past years, and he's never done it.

President Bush. Thank you all.

Prime Minister Blair. Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11 a.m. in the gymnasium at Crawford High School. In his remarks, he referred to Cherie Blair, wife of Prime Minister Blair, their daughter Kathryn, and Mrs. Blair's mother, Gale Booth. A reporter referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Remarks During a Tour of the Citizens Police Academy in Knoxville, Tennessee

April 8, 2002

Thanks, I'm honored to be here. I'm here to explain to the Nation the importance of citizens becoming involved with preparedness in their communities. And I want to thank the chief and the mayor, and thank you, Captain, for providing an outlet for good citizens who love their country, and who generally have asked the question, "What can I do to make my community a better place?"

The reason we've come to Knoxville is because this is a model program. And I want other people to see what is possible. I also want them to see the good citizens in action, like yourselves. I want to thank you—I'm a grateful President, for a grateful nation, for helping your community.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:43 a.m. in Training Room A of the Knoxville Police Department Training Facility. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Victor H. Ashe of Knoxville; and Chief of

Police Phil E. Keith and Captain Don Green of the Knoxville Police Department. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to Reporters Following a Tour of the Citizens Police Academy in Knoxville

April 8, 2002

Situation in the Middle East

Let me say one thing before I leave. First of all, I meant what I said to the Prime Minister of Israel. I expect there to be withdrawal without delay. And I also meant what I said to the Arab world, that in order for there to be peace, nations must stand up, leaders must stand up and condemn terrorism, terrorist activity.

There is a mutual responsibility to achieve peace, and it's going to require leadership on both sides. And the United States is firmly committed to achieving peace and is firmly committed—I am firmly committed to what I expect from both parties.

I repeat, I meant what I said about withdrawal without delay, and I mean what I say when I call upon the Arab world to strongly condemn and act against terrorist activity.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:06 p.m. at the Knoxville Police Department Training Facility. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Remarks on the Citizens Corps in Knoxville

April 8, 2002

Thank you all so very much. I'm sure glad to be back in Knoxville, Tennessee. I want to thank you for your warm welcome. I want to thank you for your hospitality. And I want to thank you all for coming today to give me a chance to talk about some—to talk about the future of this great country and why I'm optimistic about the future of this great country and why I'm so proud to be an American, to be the President of this great country.

It makes sense to come to the Volunteer State to talk about the need for our citizens to help each other. I can understand why the